

We meet at:

St John's United Reformed Church Hall  
Lynwood Grove Orpington BR6 0BG

We meet on:

The first Saturday of each month  
9am-1pm. New members welcome

The Woodentops is the SE London and W Kent Branch of the BWA



Now follow on twitter: #carverofwood



## In the News

Damian Lewis - the British star of TV Channel 4 series **Homeland**, was on Desert Island Discs in early December 2014. As well as his chosen songs, Lewis selected to take a whittling kit to the "desert island" as his luxury item, after being given one as a gift by his wife, Helen McCrory.



We don't know how good are his carving skills, but its good to hear carving mentioned on no less than Prime Time Radio 4!

Damian Lewis and wife Helen McCrory who bought him a 'whittling set' Photo: Alamy



## Let the Sparks Fly!

This is member Chris sharpening one of his tools at our last meeting of 2014.

A new year starts, with all the promises, expectations and hopes that this brings.

Stretch your imagination as you think of new things and new ways to carve. Stretch your hopes and ambitions to help make 2015 your best carving year yet. Cast out those fears of making a wrong cut, or chipping away too deep. After all, what's the worst that could go wrong? Only that you might have to start again.

So cast out those fears and reach for the stars. In short, let the sparks fly!





# “Guerilla” Tree Sculptor in North Yorkshire Identified (it’s not Banksy)

It was in 2012 in a wooded area around Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, UK—a city known for quirky architecture and annual art festivals—that three sculptures were surreptitiously carved into a number of felled trees by an unknown artist. These were not crude, amateur wood carvings, but clearly the work of an accomplished sculptor, who the Daily Mail called “an anonymous Banksy-style guerrilla artist”. The sculptures are indeed incredible.

The rogue tree carver’s identity was unveiled when the BBC decided to do the obvious thing and knock on the door of the person who owned the publicly-accessible private property where the sculptures were spotted, David Brown. Although Brown was unavailable for comment his housekeeper reported that the works were commissioned from chainsaw-wielding artist **Tommy Craggs** who makes a living traveling around the world carving all matter of mystical creatures, animals, and figurative works into trees. Case closed.



See more of Tommy’s work at  
<http://www.treesculpting.co.uk>

If YOU spot any unusual  
carvings anywhere, take a  
picture and send to me:  
[clive@thewoodentops.co.uk](mailto:clive@thewoodentops.co.uk)

Publication guaranteed!



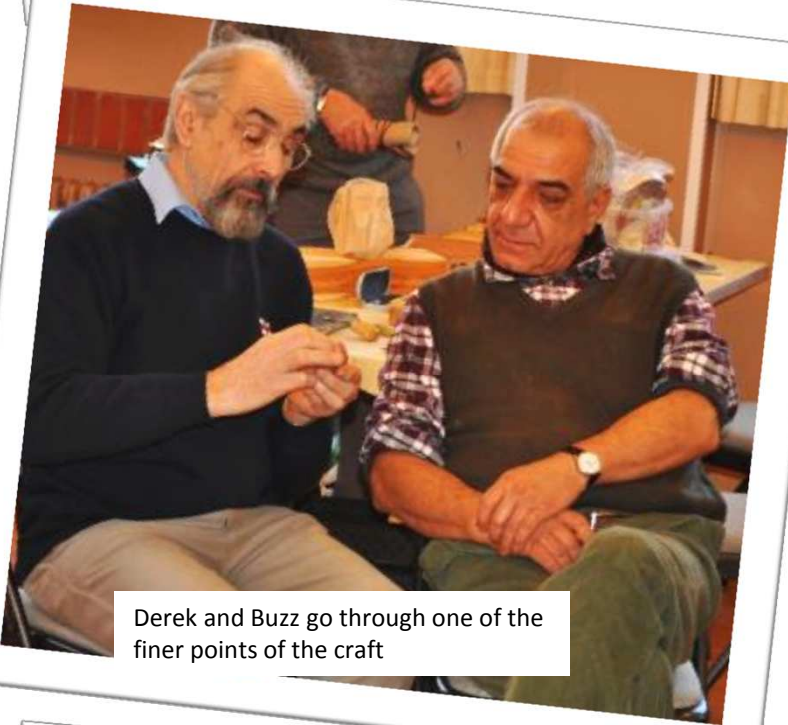
# Around the Club in December 2014



Cathy and Mary discuss Club finances



Jerome contemplates his new project



Derek and Buzz go through one of the finer points of the craft



A potential new member is shown round



David and Linda concentrate



Paul sharpens his gouge



# Carving: Chinese Style

I'm indebted to **Ciro** for sending me these details.

One tree, four years of work and an indescribable amount of talent: that's what it took to create this incredible masterpiece. A famous Chinese wood carver, Zheng Chunhui, chopped down a single tree and tirelessly worked on it for **over four years** to make this piece. Your jaw will hit the floor when you see what he created. It all started out with a simple tree trunk.

The carving is based on the famous Chinese painting "Along the River During the Qingming Festival." The original artwork was created over 1,000 years ago.

The piece won the Guinness World Record for the longest wooden carving and measures over 40ft (specifically, it is 12.286 meters long, is 3.075 meters tall at its highest point, and is also 2.401 meters wide). The intricate carvings of daily life in ancient China are detailed and near-perfect. This incredible work of art is drawing much attention, not just because it's so big, but also because it's so incredibly detailed. That was **8,760 hours** well spent!



More at  
<http://cdn.viralnova.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/tree-trunk2.jpg>



# Jottings

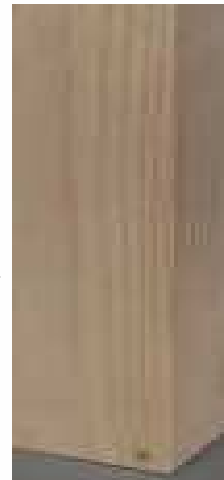
The British Woodcarving Association has a new **member competition**. Carve what you like from a piece of wood 6" x 1" x 1" ((that's 15.2cm x 2.5cm x 2.5 cm) and the winner gets a fabulous Carving Jack multi tool (pictured below) plus leather holder, and stropping system, worth in all £110.

Why not have a go? Closing date is 20 Feb 2014 so time is tight! See Clive or any committee member if you want more details.

<http://www.britishwoodcarversassociation.co.uk/news-and-events>



Take a chip off an old block



**Next meeting 3 Jan!**

## 2015 Meetings: all 9am to 1pm, Saturdays

3 Jan	7 Feb	7 Mar	4 Apr	2 May	6 Jun	4 Jul	1 Aug	5 Sep	3 Oct	7 Nov	5 Dec
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

<b>Our Leader</b>	Ann High	01689 859617	highmorton@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mary Paddick	07929 051373	Marye.paddick@sky.com
<b>Secretary and Newsletter</b>	Clive Nash	0208 464 8902	clive@thewoodentops.co.uk
<b>Committee</b>	Terry Vincent	01689 827680	terence.vincent@mypostoffice.co.uk
<b>Committee</b>	Cathy Thomas	01689 829646	cathy@thewoodentops.co.uk
<b>Committee</b>	Tom Young	01689 851500	tom@thewoodentops.co.uk
<b>Webmaster</b>	Norman Wilkins	01689878603	norman@thewoodentops.co.uk

